

Police nab bank robbery suspect after auto chase

Charles Lewis Jackson, a 36-year-old Detroit, is being held in the Oakland County Jail after being arraigned Wednesday afternoon in Farmington's 47th District Court on a charge of armed robbery.

Farmington Hills Police believe that Jackson is the man who held up the Bank of the Commonwealth at Orchard Lake and 13 Mile last Tuesday and then led them on a high-speed chase through three communities before being captured.

Bank employees told police that a man entered the building about 3:35 p.m. Tuesday, waited in line for a teller and then asked for some change in dimes and quarters.

Witnesses said the man then pulled a handgun and said, "Get down or I'll shoot!" Then, witnesses said, the man jumped over a barrier, picked up a teller's drawer containing an unknown amount of money and fled the bank.

Once outside, the robber carried the money, which included an exploding dye package — to a large, rust-colored, older-model car. Another witness told police he noticed pink smoke, possibly from the exploding dye pack, coming from the teller's drawer.

Another witness, 19-year-old Sean Isaac, was riding a moped in the area. He told police he saw a vehicle like the one the robber was driving go south on Westfield and then east on 13 Mile.

Isaac told police he circled around the block on his moped and then spotted the car heading down an alley behind the Record Outlet on Orchard Lake Road.

School chief's evaluation raises huff

In a first-time effort to detail administrative shortcomings, the Walled Lake Board of Education told Superintendent Don Sheldon his poor annual evaluation was because of insufficient control over the district's "middle management."

The board expressed deep concern for the district's business and finances, where it rated Sheldon's performance about 2.6 (between poor and fair) on a scale of five.

When they could wait no longer for the exemption legislation to pass, Sheldon said they put a rush on bidding 1983-83 auditing services.

"This has affected me, personally and professionally, more than any one of you realize," Sheldon said. "It's going to be something with which I will live for a long time... If I'm to be evaluated for every individual in the district, I don't think I'd ever get a good evaluation."

"What we're really talking about here is command," said Trustee Merlin Reeds at a recent study session at the Plymouth Hilton Hotel.

WRIGHT WAS HIRED in January to replace Harry Carlson who retired last September after 30 years with Walled Lake schools. Board members faulted Wright with untimely business reports, falling to establish an effective purchasing policy for school supplies and lacking expertise in the area of data processing.

Sheldon noted the business office is in a state of transition and that, while there are admitted problems, progress is being made.

"This is the crux of the problem," said Trustee Robert Cooper. "We do not evaluate anyone else in the district. I am unhappy about this whole financial (department). Something has to be done. Some heads may have to roll, but something has to change."

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